

Approved For Release 2003/08/08 : CIA-RDP80R01443R000200110005-4

NSC BRIEFING

28 January 1954

25X1

BURMA

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NSA review completed

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II. Burma rice problem is this:

- A. Government has 800,000 tons
1953 rice.
- B. Exportable surplus 1954 crop
estimated 1,500,000.
- C. Export commitments 1954 only
600,000 so far.
- D. Rice piling up on farms,
speculators paying less
than legal minimum price.
- E. Farmers cash income comes
once a year; their present
income doesn't meet debts
incurred earlier on basis
fixed prices.

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III. Burmese government worried

- A. Fear loss peasant political support and possibility scattered riots.
- B. Communist armed activity and influence among peasants will probably increase but government overthrow unlikely.
- C. Plans strong measures against Communist agitation.
- D. But refuses cut export prices *as Social Security Scheme had to rise price* which could solve rice problem.
- E. Seeking solution by negotiating with Moscow and Peiping for sales.

*Rangoon price \$168.00 long ton
[generally estimated could move at
40% discount]-*

Plethra - wheat + rice -

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